

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 04369 01 OF 02 122155Z
ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1481
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 BOGOTA 4369

DEPARTMENT FOR A
WHITE HOUSE FOR MS. MARY HOYT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, ROSALYNN)
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES FOR MRS. CARTER'S VISIT

REF: STATE 104923

1. FOLLOWING ARE BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF THE THREE KEY LEADERS
MRS. CARTER WILL MEET IN COLOMBIA: PRESIDENT LOPEZ, THE FIRST
LADY SENORA DE LOPEZ, AND FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO, WHO IS
UNMARRIED.

2. BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH NO. 1 - PRESIDENT ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN.
--THE PATRICIAN AS POPULIST.

3. THE POLITICAL MAN. LOPEZ IS A PRODUCT OF COLOMBIA'S UPPER
CLASS ELITE. HE IS A MEMBER OF A WELL-ESTABLISHED FAMILY, THE
SON OF A POPULAR PRESIDENT, WEALTHY BY INHERITANCE AND IN HIS
OWN RIGHT, AND WAS EDUCATED IN ENGLAND, FRANCE, AND THE U.S.
YET THROUGHOUT HIS POLITICAL LIFE, HE HAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED
HIMSELF AN OPPONENT OF PRIVILEGE, AND OF THE ESTABLISHMENT.
HE HAS SOUGHT TO INTRODUCE SOCIAL REFORMS TO CORRECT
INEQUITIES, REDISTRIBUTE BENEFITS, AND CHAMPION THE WEAK.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 04369 01 OF 02 122155Z

4. ALTHOUGH LOPEZ HAS HAD A REPUTATION OF FLIRTING WITH
THE LEFT, HE IS NOT--AND NEVER WAS--A REVOLUTIONARY. HIS
GOAL HAS BEEN TO REFORM THE SYSTEM, NOT TO CHANGE IT ENTIRELY.
HE HAS REMAINED COMMITTED TO THE BASIC FOUNDATIONS OF COLOMBIA'S
POLITICO-ECONOMIC SYSTEM--PRIVATE PROPERTY AND ENTERPRISE,
DEMOCRATIC POLITICS, AND CIVIL LIBERTIES. HIS REFORMIST
COMPULSIONS, IN FACT, REST ON A CONVICTION THAT UNRELIEVED

INEQUITIES AND THE CONCENTRATION OF POWER IN AN ELITE ARE GREAT DANGERS TO DEMOCRACY. HIS PAST ASSOCIATION AND CONTACT WITH LEFTIST GROUPS WERE THE RESULT OF HIS TOLERANCE OF DIVERSITY AND HIS REBELLIOUSNESS AGAINST THE ESTABLISHMENT RATHER THAN OF ANY IDEOLOGICAL AFFINITY.

5. HE SEES GOVERNMENT NOT SO MUCH AS A GENERATOR OF WEALTH ITSELF, BUT AS THE OBJECTIVE AND CONSISTENT ENFORCER OF FAIRNESS. AND YET, HE OPPOSES AUTHORITARIANISM AS A MEANS TO HIS ENDS. HIS TENDENCY IS TOWARD PRAGMATIC APPROACHES, MODERATION, AND THE SEARCH FOR CONSENSUS. HE DECRIES PASSION, DEMAGOGUERY, AND CONFRONTATIONS.

6. LOPEZ' TERM ENDS IN AUGUST 1978. AT PRESENT, HE IS FACED WITH A SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF POLITICAL SUPPORT, DUE ESPECIALLY TO THREE FACTORS: 1) INCREASING DOMESTIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY INFLATION; 2) A POLITICAL SCANDAL, ABOUT WHICH LOPEZ IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE, REGARDING ALLEGED FINANCIAL IMPROPRIETIES INVOLVING TWO OF HIS SONS; AND, 3) THE NATURAL WEAKENING OF SUPPORT FOR A LAME-DUCK PRESIDENT AS POTENTIAL SUCCESSORS BEGIN JOCKEYING FOR POSITION.

7. THE STATESMAN. LOPEZ' VIEWS ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARE AFFECTED BY THESE BASIC BELIEVES. HE HAS EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT INTERNATIONAL LAW PROVIDES THE BEST PROTECTION FOR THE SMALLER STATES. PLURALISM AND ACCOMMODATION OF DIFFERENCES ARE KEY IN HIS THINKING, AND HE HAS SOUGHT TO DEMONSTRATE THESE PRINCIPLES IN HIS CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN LEADERS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 04369 01 OF 02 122155Z

8. HIS VIEW OF THE US IS COMPLICATED. HE ADMIRES OUR TECHNICAL PROGRESS, AND OUR SYSTEM OF LAW AND DEMOCRACY. HE REACTS, HOWEVER, AGAINST WHAT HE PERCEIVES TO BE INTERVENTIONIST TENDENCIES OF OUR POWER AND OUR SUPPOSED INCLINATION TO EXERT HEGEMONY. SENSITIVE TO ANYTHING RESEMBLING US TUTELAGE OR HEGEMONY, LOPEZ SEEKS TO MOVE COLOMBIA TO A MORE INDEPENDENT POSTURE BASED ON A PRAGMATIC CALCULATION OF COLOMBIA'S OWN INTEREST.

9. LOPEZ FAVORS A STRONG INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, WITH US PARTICIPATION BUT NOT CONTROL. HE IS VERY MUCH A LATIN AMERICANIST WHO CONSIDERS THE REGION'S DESTINY TO REST IN ITS OWN HANDS. HE IS SKEPTICAL OF HOW PERMANENT OR REAL IS ANY LATIN AMERICAN IDENTITY OF INTEREST WITH THE THIRD WORLD, AND RECOGNIZES COLOMBIA'S INEVITABLE LINKS TO THE WEST.

10. DEALING WITH THE PRESIDENT. IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING SKETCH, THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC POINTS MAY BE

USEFUL IN DEALING WITH LOPEZ:

A) DON'T REFER TO OUR PRAISE THE NATIONAL FRONT SYSTEM, AS REMARKABLE AS THAT EXPERIMENT WAS. LOPEZ WAS A STRONG AND CONSISTENT OPPONENT OF THE CONCEPT WHICH HE THOUGHT WAS UNDEMOCRATIC, SUPPRESSED DISSENT, AND CONSOLIDATED THE POWER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT..

?) DON'T USE THE CAMBIT WE ARE OFTEN WONT TO USE:
"WHAT DO YOU THINK THE US OUGHT TO DO ABOUT X?" LOPEZ WAS MUCH INFLUENCED BY HIS FATHER'S REACTION TO THIS GAMBIT. ANECDOTES HAVE IT THAT LOPEZ' FATHER DERIDED THIS "GRINGO" TENDENCY TO HIS ASSOCIATES WHICH HE THOUGHT WAS AT BEST PATRONIZING AND AT WORST IMPOSSIBLE TO ANSWER SINCE HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF US CONSIDERATIONS AND CONDITIONS. A BETTER APPROACH IS SIMPLY TO OUTLINE FOR HIM IN STRAIGHT-FORWARD FASHION US POSITIONS AND THOUGHTS AND EXPLANATIONS.
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 BOGOTA 04369 01 OF 02 122155Z

C) AVOID REMARKS WHICH HE MIGHT PERCEIVE AS REFERENCES TO HIS PRESENT POLITICAL PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY THOSE INVOLVING HIS SONS.

D) DO LISTEN; SHOW INTEREST IN HIS IDEAS AND ANALYSES; MAKE HIM FEEL CONSULTED.

E) DO PRAISE HIS ADMINISTRATION'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND HIS DEDICATION TO DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES AND THE RULE OF LAW.

F) DO REFER FAVORABLY TO HIS FATHER AND TO HIS FOLLOWING THAT TRADITION.

11. PERSONAL HISTORY. ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN WAS BORN ON JUNE 30, 1913 IN BOGOTA. HE RECEIVED HIS SECONDARY EDUCATION IN PARIS, BRUSSELS, AND LONDON. HE LATER STUDIED LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHILE AND WAS A STUDENT AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF FOREIGN SERVICE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. HE BEGAN HIS CAREER AS A TEACHER, PRACTICED LAW FOR SOME YEARS, AND THEN EARNED A REPUTATION AS A JOURNALIST AND EDITOR. HE HAS ALSO SERVED AS A CONGRESSMAN AND SENATOR, RAN UNSUCCESSFULLY FOR PRESIDENT IN 1962, WAS A DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNOR, AND WAS APPOINTED FOREIGN MINISTER IN 1968. HE WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT IN 1974. LOPEZ HAS TRAVELED THROUGHOUT EUROPE AND HAS VISITED THE USSR, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, THE US AND NEIGHBORING LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS. HE MET WITH FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON IN 1969, AS COLOMBIA'S REPRESENTATIVE AT THE FUNERAL OF FORMER PRESIDENT EISENHOWER. LOPEZ ALSO MET WITH FORMER PRESIDENT FORD DURING A STATE VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN 1975. THE PRESIDENT MARRIED THE

FORMER CECILIA CABALLERO (SEE BELOW) ON OCTOBER 23, 1938.
HE IS THE FATHER OF THREE MARRIED SONS: ALFONSO, JUAN MANUEL,
AND FELIPE.

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 04369 02 OF 02 122143Z
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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 BOGOTA 4369

DEPARTMENT FOR A
WHITE HOUSE FOR MS. MARY HOYT

12. BIGRAPHIC SKETCH NR.2: FIRST LADY CECILIA CABALLERO
DE LOPEZ

13. CECILIA CABALLERO DE LOPEZ, ABOUT 55 YEARS OLD, WAS
BROUGHT UP GENTLY IN CONVENT SCHOOLS, TAUGHT THE ACCOM-
PLISHMENTS OF A LADY AND GIVEN THE SECURITY OF MONEY
AND A RESPECTED FAMILY NAME. SHE LEARNED TO REVERE
TRADITION AND RESPONSIBILITY TO FAMILY AS OPPOSED TO
INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM. NO MATTER WHAT ANY MEMBER OF HER
FAMILY MIGHT DO, HER LOYALTIES WOULD REMAIN TO THE
FAMILY. WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK VERY HEAVILY GOVERNS
HER ACTIONS. PARTICIPATION, STATEMENTS AND DRESS. HOW
WHAT SHE MIGHT DO WOULD AFFECT HER HUSBAND WOULD WEIGH
HEAVILY IN ANY DECISION SHE MIGHT MAKE.

14. SHE WAS EDUCATED MOSTLY IN FRANCE. WHILE SHE
ADMIRE U.S. TECHNOLOGY, MACHINES AND MEDICAL ADVANCES,
SHE LOOKS TO EUROPE AS THE CENTER OF CULTURE AND STYLE
AND PATTERNS FOR GOOD FOOD, DRESS, ETC. SHE IS A
FRANCOPHILE. SHE HAS NEVER HAD A CLOSE AMERICAN FRIEND. UNTIL
THE 1975 STATE VISIT TO WASHINGTON, WHEN SHE ACCOMPANIED HER
HUSBAND, SHE HAD NEVER BEEN INTRODUCED TO U.S. STYLES, FOOD,
MUSIC, LITERATURE OR CULTURE, ALTHOUGH SHE READS AND
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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 04369 02 OF 02 122143Z

SPEAKS ENGLISH WELL. IT IS NOT THAT SHE IS ANTI-US, BUT RATHER UNINFORMED ABOUT US. NO ONE HAS ACTIVELY TRIED TO SHOW HER WHAT IS GOOD IN THE U.S. IN THE FIELD OF CULTURE.

15. SHE IS AN EXTREMELY SHY PERSON, ALTHOUGH SHE TRIES NOT TO SHOW IT. WHAT MAY SEEM ALOOFNESS OR COOLNESS OR DISREGARD IS REALLY SHYNESS. HER BENT IS INTELLECTUAL AND SERIOUS, AND SHE IS WELL INFORMED IN HISTORY AND LITERATURE. SHE DOES NOT LIKE AND IS NOT GOOD AT SMALL TALK. SHE ENJOYS INTERESTING AND ANIMATED--EVEN CONTROVERSIAL--CONVERSATION BUT SELDOM INITIATES IT HERSELF.

16. SHE HAS A VERY STRONG WILL WHICH SHE EXERCISES IN SUBTLE FASHION, PREFERRING TO GO ALONG WITH OTHERS UP TO A POINT, AND THEN RATHER THAN OPENLY CHALLENGE, SLOWLY CHANGE THINGS TO HER WAY OF DOING THEM. SHE IS KNOWN AS A PEACEMAKER AND ONE WHO CAN SOOTHE TROUBLED WATERS IN A QUIET FASHION WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY.

17. SHE IS ABSTEMIOUS IN DRINK AND LIKES GOOD FOOD, ALTHOUGH SHE EATS LIGHTLY. SHE GREATLY ADMIRES A WELL-APPOINTED TABLE AND WELL-SERVED, TASTY FOOD, BUT DISLIKES COOKING. IN CLOTHING, SHE PREFERS CASUALNESS AND SIMPLICITY IN MORE TRADITIONAL STYLES IN DARK OR BASIC COLORS. SHE PREFERS THE WELL-CUT SUIT OF GOOD LINE AND QUALITY MATERIAL THAT WILL LAST A LONG TIME, RATHER THAN HAVING A QUANTITY OF CLOTHING. SHE DRESSES WELL, AND ENJOYS STYLES, GOOD CLOTHES, DESIGNS. ART INTERESTS HER, AND SHE LIKES ALL MODERN ART INCLUDING POP ART, ALTHOUGH HER TASTES IN FURNITURE STAY TRADITIONAL FRENCH. SHE ENJOYS ALL FORMS OF MUSIC, ALTHOUGH DOES NOT HERSELF PLAY. RECENTLY SHE HAS BECOME INTERESTED IN ARTISAN WORK IN COLOMBIA, ESPECIALLY IN THE RETURN OF WOMEN HERE TO WEAVING AND SPINNING.

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SECRET

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 04369 02 OF 02 122143Z

18. SHE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN AND IS INTERESTED IN WORK FOR UNDER-PRIVILEGED CHILDREN--DAYCARE CENTERS, HOMES FOR ORPHANS, HEALTH CARE FOR POOR MOTHERS. SHE HAS LITTLE SPECIFIC BACKGROUND IN PSYCHOLOGY AND IN EDUCATION, AND IS NOT FAMILIAR WITH U.S. WORK AND ADVANCES IN THESE FIELDS, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF SPECIAL EDUCATION, SUCH AS COURSES FOR SYSLEXIA, ALL OF WHICH WOULD, WERE SHE AWARE OF IT, INTEREST HER GREATLY.

19. BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH NR.3: FOREIGN MINISTER INDALECIO
LIEVANO AGUIRRE

20. FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO HAS BEEN A POLITICIAN,
HISTORIAN, DIPLOMAT, ECONOMIST, AND JOURNALIST. HE IS
HIGHLY RESPECTED IN COLOMBIAN INTELLECTUAL CIRCLES AS
A SCHOLAR. HE IS ESPECIALLY WELL-KNOWN FOR HIS HISTOR-
ICAL TREATISES. IN PERSON, HE CAN BE QUITE CHARMING,
THOUGH HE HAS A TENDENCY TO LECTURE RATHER THAN TO CONVERSE.

21. LIEVANO IS FRIENDLY IN HIS PERSONAL DEALINGS WITH
AMERICANS, BUT IS FREQUENTLY CRITICAL OF U.S. FOREIGN
POLICY, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO LATIN AMERICA.
HE IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF PRESIDENT LOPEZ AND
FREQUENTLY REFLECTS THE THINKING OF THE PRESIDENT IN
HIS OWN OPINIONS. HE CONDUCTS VEST-POCKET DIPLOMACY,
CONSULTING WITH FEW ADVISORS AND LEAVING HIS STAFF
TO SPECULATE ON POLICY FORMULATION.

22. LIEVANO WAS BORN ON JULY 24, 1917, IN BOGOTA.
HE BECAME PRESIDENT LOPEZ' FOREIGN MINISTER IN 1974.
HE IS SEPARATED FROM HIS WIFE. HE SPEAKS SOME ENGLISH,
BUT REQUEIRES AN INTERPRETER FOR LENGTHY OR COMPLEX
CONVERSATIONS.
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